

American Journal of Botany Council Report - 2007

- The current editorial staff includes Ms. Amy McPherson (Managing Editor), Dr. Beth Hazen (Production Editor and lead copy editor), Dr. Sophia Balcomb, and several freelance copy editors. Sincere thanks are extended to reviewers, Associate Editors, and the Editorial Staff for their diligent work on behalf of the *AJB* over the past year.
- As of January, 2008 (Volume 95, Number 1), Sheridan Press will be the printer of *AJB*. A new online manuscript submission and tracking system will be adopted (EditorialManager is the top contender), with the training and trial period to begin later this month.
- All communications (electronic, mail, and telephone) should be directed to the Editorial Office, which is located in St. Louis, at the BSA headquarters at the Missouri Botanical Garden. The address is American Journal of Botany, P.O. Box 299, St. Louis, MO 63166-0299; tel. 314-577-5112; fax 314-577-9515; email to: ajb@botany.org; www.amjbot.org). If you return paper copies of reviews or marked manuscripts, please send them to St. Louis, not to Davis.
- Associate Editors (AEs) are very involved in the publication process. Their responsibilities include suggesting reviewers, reading and evaluating reviews, and making recommendations for the EiC's final decision. There are now 52 Associate Editors, with two more to join the Editorial Board in January 2008.
- Suggestions for special paper topics and books reviews are encouraged. Please contact Darleen DeMason (demason@ucr.edu) for special papers and Michael Christianson (mxianson@pacbell.net) for book reviews.
- The impact factor for the *American Journal of Botany* rose from 2.572 in 2005 to 2.969 in 2006, and the Journal's impact factor ranking rose from 22 to 16. This probably reflects the popular and widely cited "Green Tree of Life" special issue in Oct. 2004. The challenge will be to sustain and build on this increase.
- A major problem with papers continues to be authors' failure to explicitly state in the abstract and elsewhere why they did the research they did, what major question in biology in general or botany in particular their research addressed; why anyone outside the specific discipline of the paper should care about the results; and how knowledge of general principles and mechanisms of biology is expanded by publication of this paper. The answers to these questions should appear explicitly in the abstract, or the manuscript may be returned for revision without review.
- Authors have two opportunities to submit an acceptable manuscript to *AJB*: the original submission and one revision. If the revised manuscript is deficient in any way other than typos and very minor details, it is declined for publication.
- There is a moving one-year wall for open access to all *AJB* content. BSA members and subscribing institutions have immediate access to all current and past *AJB* content.
- Comments and suggestions are always welcome from readers, authors, reviewers, staff, and Associate Editors. E-mail to ajb@botany.org.

AJB Statistics
Manuscript Types and Processing Time
ABOT Journal
Summary Report
For Period:
1/1/2006 -
12/31/2006

Manuscript Types	Total # of Submitted Mss.	Accept Rate (%)	Total # of Accepted Mss.	Total # of Rejected Mss.	Total # of Pending Mss.	Days from Receipt to 1st Decision	Days from Receipt to Final Decision
Research Article	396	42	148	202	46	73.31	147.09
Special Paper Brief	21	100	21	0	0	38.14	119.05
Communications	12	36	4	7	1	45.67	113
Book Review	1	100	1	0	0	3	3
Total	430	45	174	209	47	70.66	144.34

For Period: 1/1/2005 –
12/31/2005

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Research Article	397	42	157	217	23	70.89	122
Special Paper Brief	3	0	0	1	2	19.67	59
Communications	18	11	2	16	0	54.17	76.67
Book Review	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	418	40	159	234	25	69.8	119.77

Manuscript Categories Submitted to Journal

Manuscript Category	Total 06	Total 05
Ecology	107	112
Systematics and Phytogeography	96	96
Reproductive Biology	94	87
Anatomy and Morphology	64	47
Population Biology	51	48
Physiology and Biochemistry	28	13
Genetics	20	13
Paleobotany	19	23
Developmental Biology and Developmental Genetics	10	21
Cell Biology	8	4

Mycology and Plant Pathology	7	4
Phycology	4	4
Pteridology	3	3
Bryology and Lichenology	2	2
Structure and Development	*	10
Tropical Biology	*	7
Physiology and Development	*	4

*Not a separate category in 2006

Decisions on Manuscripts

	Total 2006	Total 2005
Original Manuscripts Submitted	479	482
Revised Manuscripts Resubmitted	487	438
Manuscripts Accepted Without Revisions	1	3
Return with Revisions	254	216
Manuscripts Rejected	198	196
Rejected With Review	101	97
Returned Without Review	97	99
Rejected After Revisions	39	24
Requires Another Revision	289	216
Accepted after Revisions	315	231
Manuscripts Withdrawn	10	68
Original Manuscripts Not Withdrawn	469	414
Total Manuscripts Submitted (originals + revisions)	966	920

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Jernstedt
Editor-in-Chief

Amy McPherson
Managing Editor

5 July 2007